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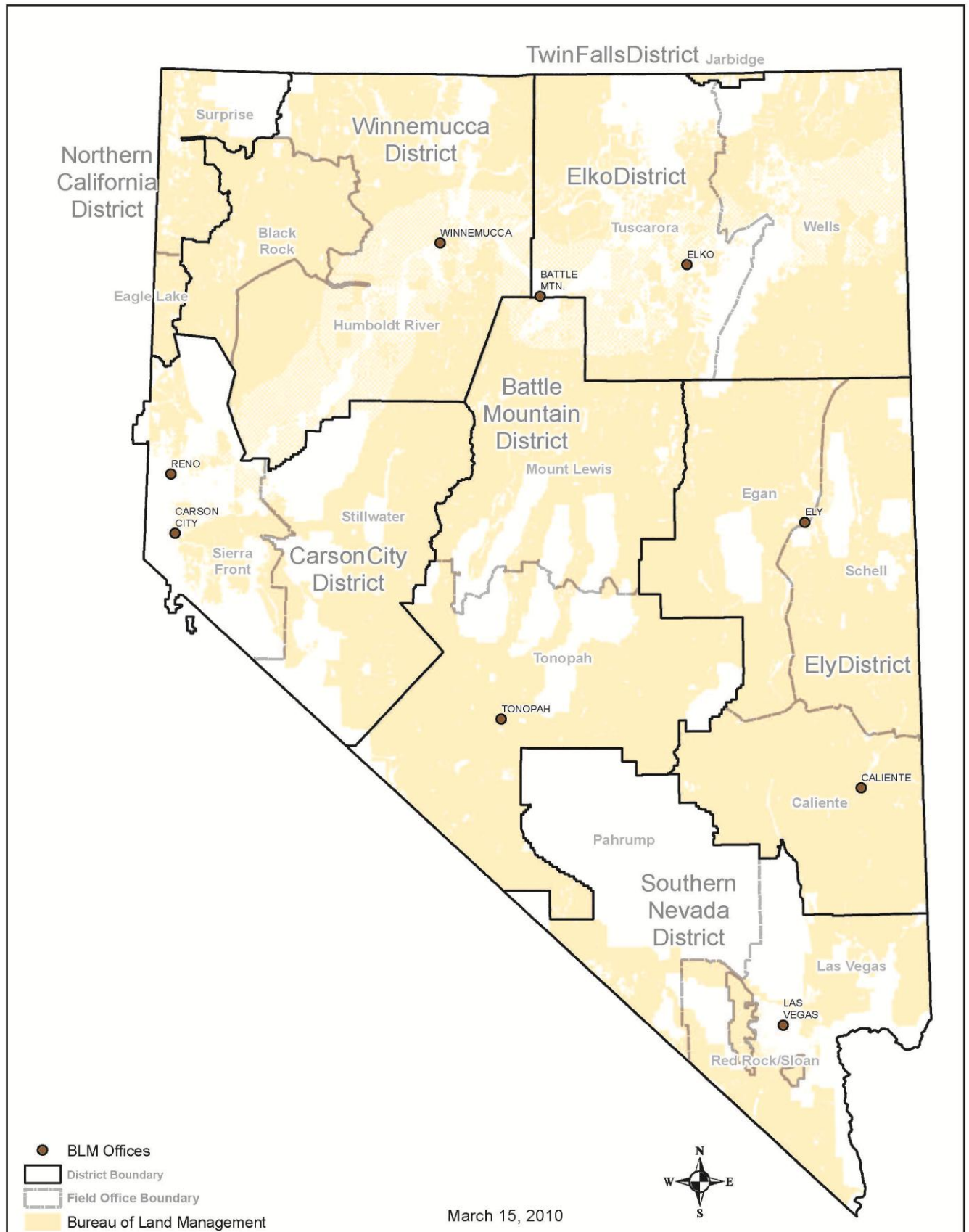


BLM Nevada Overview

- Manage 48 million acres of public land in the state
- 59 million subsurface acres
- Headquartered in Reno
- 6 districts
- 14 field offices
- Districts are divided into 2 or 3 field offices depending on size of the district
- Most field offices are co-located in their respective district office
- Detached field offices in Caliente and Tonopah
- Largest mining program in the BLM
- Most wild horses in the nation
- Additional information: www.blm.gov/nv



Image: Spring Flowers in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Photographer: Michael Balen



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Renewable Energy

The Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement was signed by the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, on October 12, 2012, establishing an initial set of 17 Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) throughout the western states, totaling about 285,000 acres of public lands

These will serve as priority areas for commercial-scale solar development, with the potential for additional zones through ongoing and future regional planning processes. Nevada has five SEZs totaling 60,395 acres with the potential for approximately 6,700 megawatts (MW). The Solar PEIS also keeps the door open, on a case-by-case basis, for the possibility of carefully sited solar projects outside solar energy zones on about 19 million acres in “variance” areas. The program also includes a framework for regional mitigation plans, and to protect key natural and cultural resources the program excludes a little under 79 million acres that would be inappropriate for solar development based on currently available information.

BLM Nevada Solar Energy Zones

Solar Energy Zone Name, (BLM Office, County)	Megawatt Potential
Amargosa Valley (Southern Nevada/Nye) 8,479 acres	942 megawatts
Dry Lake (Southern Nevada/Clark) 5,717 acres	635 megawatts
Dry Lake Valley North (Ely/Lincoln) 25,069 acres	2,785 megawatts
Gold Point (Battle Mountain/Esmeralda) 4,596 acres	511 megawatts
Millers (Battle Mountain/Esmeralda) 16,534 acres	1,837 megawatts
Total: 60,395 acres	6,711 megawatts

Dry Lake SEZ

The Dry Lake SEZ, located in Clark County, is the first SEZ to move forward for development. The BLM NV completed the Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake SEZ, which provides compensation recommendations for unavoidable impacts expected from the development of the SEZ. BLM NV completed a 30-day formal request for interest from developers on April 15, 2014, during which nine letters of interest were. The Dry Lake SEZ Competitive Auction took place on June 30, 2014 in Las Vegas, offered 6 parcels, and brought in \$5.86 million. The BLM has recently completed the public review process for the Environmental Assessments for each project in this SEZ, and is anticipating issuing Decision Records in spring 2015.

Dry Lake North SEZ

The BLM NV is currently preparing the Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake North SEZ, located in Lincoln County. This Strategy is scheduled for completion in spring 2015. If the BLM receives specific interest in this parcel from developers, this SEZ would be the next to move forward.

Wind and Solar Permitting Process

A rights-of-way grant is an authorization to use a specific piece of public land for a certain project, such as roads, pipelines, transmission lines, as well as wind and solar energy projects. A rights-of-way grant authorizes rights and privileges for a specific use of the land for a specific period of time. Generally, a BLM rights-of-way is granted for a term appropriate for the life of the project. In particular, the BLM makes wind and solar applications a priority for the protection of resource values and to process the applications expeditiously.

2015 Renewable Energy Priority Active Projects**Solar****Dry Lake North SEZ Projects**

- Harry Allen Solar Energy Center Project (Parcel 1); proposed 130 MW project on approximately 715 acres
- Playa Solar Project (Parcels 2, 3, and 4); proposed 200 MW project on approximately 1,700 acres
- Dry Lake Solar Energy Center Project (Parcels 5 and 6); proposed 150 MW project on approximately 660 acres

Luning Solar

- Proposed 50 MW project located on 560 acres near Luning, NV in Mineral County

Wind**Searchlight Wind Project**

- Searchlight Wind is a 200 MW project that is currently under litigation.
- Proposed to be located on 24,383 acres of public land near Searchlight, Nevada

Geothermal Lease Sales

BLM Nevada will host one geothermal complete lease sale annually and/or a joint competitive lease sale in coordination with California and Utah.

- Parcels are nominated by both BLM and industry
- Nevada currently has 511 leases which comprises more than one million acres
- Competitive lease sales have generated more than \$50 million since July 2007

BLM Nevada lease sale- September 2014

- Sold 1 parcel encompassing 40 acres for \$315

BLM Nevada lease sale- November 2013

- Sold 4 parcels encompassing 3,317 acres for \$13,888

BLM Nevada lease sale- January 2013

- Sold 7 parcels encompassing 6,956 acres for \$28,982

BLM Nevada lease sale - January 2012

- 8 parcels encompassing 27,834 acres for \$112,540

BLM Nevada lease sale - March 2011

- Sold 17 parcels encompassing 46,627 acres for \$456,353

BLM Nevada lease sale - May 2010

- Sold 75 parcels encompassing 212,370 acres for \$2,326,631

BLM NV-CA-UT joint lease sale - July 2009

- Sold 98 parcels encompassing 255,347 acres for \$9,098,304

Royalties Through 2012 - Reinstated Annually by Federal Legislation

25 % Counties

50% State of Nevada

25% - U.S. Treasury

Fiscal Year 2014 royalties paid to the State exceed \$2.3 million.

Sales value of more than \$100 million for electricity generation in Nevada

Royalties Through 2012 - Reinstated Annually by Federal Legislation

25 % Counties

50% State of Nevada

25% - U.S. Treasury

Fiscal Year 2013 royalties paid to the State exceed \$2.6 million.

Sales value almost \$72 million for electricity generation/direct use in Nevada

Two new geothermal power plants reached commercial production capacity in 2013. They are Patua, which has a nameplate capacity of 30 MW and Don A. Campbell, previously known as Wild Rose, which has a nameplate capacity of 20 MW.

Non-Renewable Energy (Oil and Gas)

Nevada is one of the lowest oil-producing states in the country. Extraction has plunged over the past few decades, yet new exploration and leasing has increased for the last three years. There is a potential that Nevada may experience increased oil activity based on new exploration and production techniques, though current commodity prices will likely affect any new development. Recent development around Elko has shown positive results from the five wells drilled, mainly as a result of advances in hydraulic fracturing technology.

Historically, Nevada's oil hot spot is Nye County's Railroad Valley. Shell Oil Co. drilled Nevada's first producing oil well there in 1954, and the state's best oil field ever — Grant Canyon Field — was discovered there in 1983. For some time, a Grant Canyon well produced up to 4,300 barrels a day, the most of any onshore well in the continental United States.

Current oil production is primarily from the Railroad Valley, in central Nye County and Pine Valley in northeastern Eureka County.

- Nevada's public lands hold good potential for future oil and gas development
- Currently, there are 62 active wells on 32 producing leases on BLM-managed lands

Leasing

The BLM holds four competitive lease sales a year

- In Fiscal Year 2014 the BLM generated \$1.6 million from lease sales and yearly rentals
- In Fiscal Year 2013 the BLM generated \$8.6 million from lease sales and yearly rentals
- In Fiscal Year 2012 the BLM generated \$11.3 million from lease sales and yearly rentals

Applications for Permits to Drill

- In Fiscal Year 2014 the BLM approved 7 applications
- In Fiscal Year 2013 the BLM approved 13 applications

Oil Production

2014

- Total production: 313,051 barrels – 40 producing wells
- Total sale value: \$27.1 million
- Total revenue to federal government: \$3.4 million

2013

- Total production: 331,013 barrels – 30 producing wells
- Total sale value: \$28.9 million
- Total revenue to federal government: \$3.7 million

2012

- Total production: 374,825 barrels – 25 producing wells
- Total sale value: \$33.5 million
- Total revenue to federal government: \$4.2 million

Royalty/Revenue

Sale receipts are equally divided between the state and the U.S. Treasury

Mining

Nevada has the Largest Mining Program in the BLM

- 197 Approved active Mining Plans of Operation
- 314 Active Exploration Notices
- More than 193,000 active mining claims (49% of the BLM total)
- BLM NV holds more than \$2 billion in 43 CFR 3809 Surface Management reclamation bonds
- BLM Nevada recorded over 1 million mining claims to date

Third Largest Industry in Nevada

- 2013 Direct Employment – 12,100
- 2013 Related Employment – 16,166
- Nevada produces approximately 75 percent of U.S. gold production
- Nevada is the fourth largest producer of gold in the world

2013 Annual Production

- Gold 5,436,430 troy ounces
- Silver 8,668,596 troy ounces
- Copper 137,714,765 pounds
- Various industrial minerals worth hundreds of millions of dollars

Leasing of Solid Minerals other than Coal and Oil Shale

- Currently the BLM has 2 authorized permits (one sand/gravel lease and a potassium preference right lease).

Mineral Materials - Material Sales Act of 1947 (Sand and Gravel)

BLM Nevada has one of the largest Mineral Materials Programs in the BLM

- 2014: BLM NV sold 5.5 million cubic yards of sand and gravel, calcium, clay, stone, and other material valued at more than \$4.1 million
- 2013: BLM NV sold 2.3 million cubic yards of sand and gravel, calcium, clay, stone and other material valued at more than \$2.2 million.
- 2012: BLM sold 1.8 million cubic yards of sand and gravel, calcium, clay, stone and other material valued at more than \$2 million
- The majority of minerals are extracted from four community pits within the Las Vegas Valley

Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program

BLM Nevada has the largest statewide program in the agency. Inventory and remediation of abandoned mines is ongoing. Our work is done in cooperation with our partners in the Nevada Division of Minerals, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service, mining industry, and others

2014 Accomplishments

- In November of 2014, BLM Published results of analysis of potential AML sites on BLM lands in California, Nevada and Utah. The report indicates that in Nevada, an estimated 68,564 sites containing 273,239 features may still require analysis. (BLM/OC/ST-15/001+3720)
- Inventories are conducted in conjunction with the Nevada Division of Minerals (NDOM) and more than 18,000 features have been inventoried since program inception.
- Temporarily secured in conjunction with NDOM approximately 8,500 features with fences and warning signs since program inception
- Permanently closed 189 features on BLM Nevada public lands in 2014
- More than 2,517 features permanently closed (gates/grates, foam, backfill) as part of the BLM AML program since program inception
- 1,182 sites were assessed in 2014 for bats, desert tortoise, plants and cultural surveys
- Newmont Mining with BLM support closed 11 features on BLM lands in Battle Mountain District
- Safety surveys and closures ongoing in all areas of Nevada
- Working with Nevada Department of Minerals to address public safety concerns for dangerous shafts associated with the Historic Comstock Lode in Virginia City
- Ongoing work the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, US Forest Service and private land owners respond to elevated arsenic levels from the Birthday Mine adit that flows onto BLM lands and has caused over 45 cattle deaths in the past.

(Data derived from Abandoned Site Cleanup Module BLM Database and NDOM Database)

Hazardous Management and Resource Restoration (HMRR) Program

- Contract was awarded to ERM to conduct PA/SIs at six (6) abandoned mining and mill sites across Nevada under BLM's CERCLA authority.
- Environmental cleanups continue at a number of abandoned mill sites.
- Public lands continue to be used as illegal dump sites and cleanup projects occur in all BLM Districts to reduce these illegal solid waste sites.
- UXO was discovered at a couple locations that required BLM and DoD to coordinate bomb squad response and removal actions.
- Continued involvement with EPA, NDEP and stakeholders concerning the Yerington-Anaconda Mine site regarding groundwater contamination and tailings material.



Grazing and Drought

BLM livestock grazing policies are designed to protect the productivity of public lands while ensuring efficient and effective administration. Properly managed livestock grazing is congressionally mandated and provides economic and social benefits to Nevada communities.

The federal grazing fee is adjusted annually and is calculated by using a formula originally set by Congress in the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. An AUM (or animal unit month) is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The grazing fee for 2014 was \$1.35 per AUM, the same level as it was in 2013, however for Grazing year 2015 it will be \$1.68 per AUM.

Any U.S. citizen or validly licensed business can apply for a BLM grazing permit or lease. To do so, one must either:

- buy or control private property (known as “base property”) that has been legally recognized by the BLM as having preference for the use of public land grazing privileges, or
- acquire property that has the capability to serve as base property and then apply to the BLM to transfer the preference for grazing privileges from an existing base property to the acquired property (which would become the new “base property”).

The first alternative happens when base property (a ranch) is sold or leased to a new individual or business; the buyer or lessee then applies to the BLM for the use of grazing privileges associated with that property. The second alternative would happen when a rancher wants to transfer existing public land grazing privileges to another party while keeping the private ranch property.

BLM Nevada Grazing Basics

- BLM Nevada administers 668 grazing authorizations on 797 grazing allotments.
- Nevada has the most public land authorized for grazing in BLM; about 43 million acres
- Nevada currently permits about 2 million AUMs
- From 1990 to present, BLM has authorized 1.3 to 1.8 million AUMs annually
- Nevada historically ranks third/fourth in AUMs sold

Grazing use is authorized under grazing permits and leases

- A **grazing permit** is the authorization to graze a specific number and class of livestock on a designated grazing area for a specified amount of time. (Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act)

- A **grazing lease** is the authorization to graze livestock on public lands outside of the grazing district for a specified period of time. (Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act)

Grazing Receipts Paid to Nevada

2013	\$201,916 ¹
2012	\$240,434
2011	\$225,000
2010	\$192,000
2009	\$ 212,980
2008	\$ 213,930
2007	\$ 282,488

¹ Deductions were made from the amount owed the state due to sequestration legislation.

Distribution of Grazing Receipts

- *Inside Grazing Districts:*
50 percent BLM Range Improvement Fund; 37.5 percent Treasury General Fund; 12.5 percent state
- *Outside Grazing Districts:*
50 percent BLM Range Improvement Fund; 50 percent state

Nevada range priorities

Priorities for the Nevada range program are:

- To assess land health in areas containing sage-grouse and renew those permits;
- To ensure appropriate use and resource protection during drought;
- to renew expired/expiring grazing permits;
- assess rangeland health; and
- ensure that grazing use is managed in accordance with rangeland health standards and meet BLM Resource Management Plan resource goals.

In 2014 BLM Nevada:

- Processed 23 grazing permits
- Monitored 256 allotments
- Completed 36 rangeland health assessments
- Conducted 829 grazing permit compliance inspections

Drought Management

Nearly all public lands in Nevada were affected by drought in 2014. BLM Nevada follows a drought management strategy outlined in Nevada Handbook H-1730-1 Resource Management During Drought. This handbook is available online at www.blm.gov/nv.

In addition, BLM Nevada Districts have developed area-specific drought management environmental assessments which will identify local strategies and actions to be implemented to manage the effects of drought.

During 2014 BLM Nevada monitored range conditions and identified actions to minimize the effects of drought to public land resources. Forage and water availability were the primary concerns.

2014 drought actions:

- Monitored over 465 grazing allotments to assess drought impacts;
- Voluntary grazing reductions were agreed to on over 440 grazing allotments;
- Over 487,000 AUMs were voluntarily not used to allow for resource protection during drought conditions.

In 2015, BLM continues to monitor conditions and implement appropriate drought management actions through voluntary agreement or decision as appropriate.

Wild Horse and Burro Program

The BLM protects, manages, and controls wild horses and burros under the authority of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to ensure that healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands. BLM Nevada has the largest wild horse and burro program in the agency with an estimated state-wide BLM population of about 25-27,000. Over population and significant reductions of available water and forage due to on-going drought present serious management concerns across Nevada.

The BLM works to achieve what is known as the Appropriate Management Level (AML) – the point at which wild horse and burro herd populations are consistent with the land’s capacity to support them. In the context of its multiple-use mission, AML is the level at which wild horses and burros can thrive in balance with other public land uses and resources, including vegetation and wildlife. The AML is a range of low to maximum levels that allows for population growth over a four- to five-year period. To establish AML, the BLM evaluates several years of rangeland resource and population data. Those evaluations look at information relating to vegetation, soils, weather, and water quality. Each Herd Management Area (HMA) has its own AML. When AML is exceeded, the excess animals are gathered and then prepared for adoption or sent to long-term pastures.

Basic Information on the BLM Nevada wild horses and burro program:

- Number of WH&B Specialists in Nevada: 9
- Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Allocation: \$5.6 million
- Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Allocation: \$5.2 million
- 83 Herd Management Areas
- Current project population = 25-27,000 (not including 2014 foals)
- State-wide Appropriate Management Level = 12,688 (includes horses & burros)
- Number of HMAs at or over AML: 74

2014 Accomplishments

- Removed 140 excess wild horses and burros
- Conducted 43 population inventories
- Monitored 52 HMAs
- Adopted 86 animals

2015 Targets

- Remove 1,000 excess wild horses/burros
- Conduct 42 population inventories
- Monitor 50 HMAs
- Adopt 100 animals

Sage-Grouse Conservation

Greater Sage-grouse

In 2010 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a listing decision for the greater sage-grouse (GRSG) as “warranted but precluded.” Inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms was identified as a major threat to the species. Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are the overarching regulatory documents that guide the BLM’s land management actions.

The BLM, working jointly with the Forest Service, has developed a series of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) to incorporate GRSG conservation measures on the lands they manage, thus ameliorating the inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms threat to avoid a potential listing under the Endangered Species Act. For the purposes of this planning effort, the Western Region is divided into four sub-regions: **Northeast California-Nevada**; Oregon; Idaho and Southwestern Montana; and Utah.

The BLM’s multiple use and sustained yield mission requires us to find a balance between the full range of resources, including the conservation of crucial wildlife habitat, and resource uses. These principles have driven the development of BLMs conservation planning strategy for GRSG and its habitat.

Our planning process has been complex and highly collaborative with meaningful coordination with the public serving as the cornerstone. Throughout the process, we have worked closely with a broad range of stakeholders, including Governors, State Fish and Game agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and many others.

Working with our partners, as we move from draft plans to final, the BLM and USFS are resolving key issues (like disturbance limits and mitigation approaches) and are moving to complete our proposed land use plans/final EISs by late spring, and the records of decision by late summer.

We have confidence these plans, when final, will help ensure the long-term viability of the GRSG and other iconic wildlife species on public lands and the continued economic vitality of the West.

Strong Federal land use plans (BLM and USFS), however, will only get us part of the way in ensuring the long-term conservation of GRSG and avoid the need to list under the Endangered Species Act.

One third of GRSG habitat is administered by the states or is privately-owned. For this reason, strong State plans as well as an effective strategy to reduce the risk of fire to GRSG habitat are

key components of the range-wide strategy. We are continuing our collaboration with our state and federal partners as well as private landowners to ensure all components of a range-wide strategy are in place.

Together we can ensure listing of the GRSG is no longer warranted while preserving traditional Western economic activity that is also dependent on a healthy sagebrush range. Figure 1 displays the preliminary habitat categories that provide the basis for the application of the BLM's Interim Policy for conserving sage-grouse habitat in Nevada. This map is based on the GRSG habitat suitability modeling by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). It was prepared in cooperation with Dr. Peter Coates with USGS, the states of Nevada and California, and the BLM. The map underwent peer review and is considered by the State of Nevada, USGS, and the BLM as the best available science on location and suitability of sage-grouse habitat in Nevada and northeastern California. The mapping effort incorporated updated telemetry data (1998-2013), landscape habitat mapping (which includes vegetation mapping as well as topography and land features) and GRSG lek data.

Key Elements to Land Use Plans:

We are implementing key elements of the planning effort, which will enable us to achieve greater clarity and consistency across the range while honoring specific local approaches and conditions.

Key elements addressed include:

- Limiting or eliminating new surface disturbance in sage-grouse priority habitat and minimizing additional disturbance in general habitat.
- Improving greater sage-grouse habitat condition
- Reducing the threat of rangeland fire to greater sage-grouse in the Great Basin by placing added priority prevention, suppression and restoration of sagebrush landscapes threatened by rangeland fire through improved federal-state-local collaboration and coordination.

To further reduce the threat of wildfire, invasive species, and conifer encroachment to sage-grouse in the Great Basin over the long term, the BLM initiated the Fire and Invasives Assessment (FIAT) Project in the fall of 2014. Five assessment teams include representatives from partners such as the USFS, NRCS, and State agencies. These non-decisional evaluations build upon broad, regional findings to identify priority landscapes (Priority Areas for Conservation, or PACs). Within these large landscapes, "focal habitats" reflect the intersection of high quality sage-grouse habitats, areas of high bird density, and patterns of ecological resilience, as well as factors which threaten continuation of functional habitat or populations. Management strategies and priority areas for treatment will be developed considering both the regional context

coupled with finer-resolution data at the local scale. These findings will be applied to ameliorate trends in wildfire size, habitat fragmentation, and ultimately declining sage-grouse populations. The five (5) FIAT assessments will identify and display an outyear program of work within four federal program areas: Fuels Management; Habitat Recovery/Restoration; Fire Operations; and Post-Fire Rehabilitation. These assessments will be completed April 2015 and will be submitted to the FWS to also help avoid the need to list under the Endangered Species Act.

Bi-State Sage-grouse

In March 2010, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) determined that the Bi-State population of greater sage-grouse constitutes a valid Distinct Population Segment (DPS). This distinction allows the Bi-State DPS to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) independently from the range-wide population of sage-grouse. Also, conservation and management of the Bi-State DPS is being planned and implemented independently from the range-wide sage-grouse planning effort. In October of 2013, the DPS was proposed for listing as threatened under the ESA. A final listing rule is due April of 2015.

In June 2000, Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn convened the Nevada Governor's Sage-Grouse Conservation Team (Governor's Team) to provide a forum for coordinating a landscape level approach to greater sage-grouse conservation and management. The Bi-State Local Area Working Group (LAWG) was formed under the guidance of the Governor's Team. The LAWG includes biologists from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Department of Defense (DOD), private property owners, and other key stakeholders such as Nevada Division of Forestry, California State Parks, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Nevada Wildlife Federation, US Geological Survey, Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

In 2011, an Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) was formed consisting of the Directors of State and Federal land resource agencies in Nevada and California with regulatory authority in the Bi-State DPS area.

Members of the EOC include the FWS R8 Regional Director, CDFG State Director, NDOW State Director, BLM California State Director, BLM Nevada State Director, USGS Western Ecological Research Center Director, NRCS California State Conservationist, NRCS Nevada State Conservationist, USFS R4 Forest Supervisor Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, USFS R5 Forest Supervisor Inyo National Forest.

An MOU was signed in 2012 to provide a framework to facilitate interagency cooperation among the parties that will ensure a consistent and coordinated multi-jurisdictional effort to conserve greater sage-grouse populations and habitats based on population and habitat conservation goals rather than land ownership or jurisdictional boundaries.

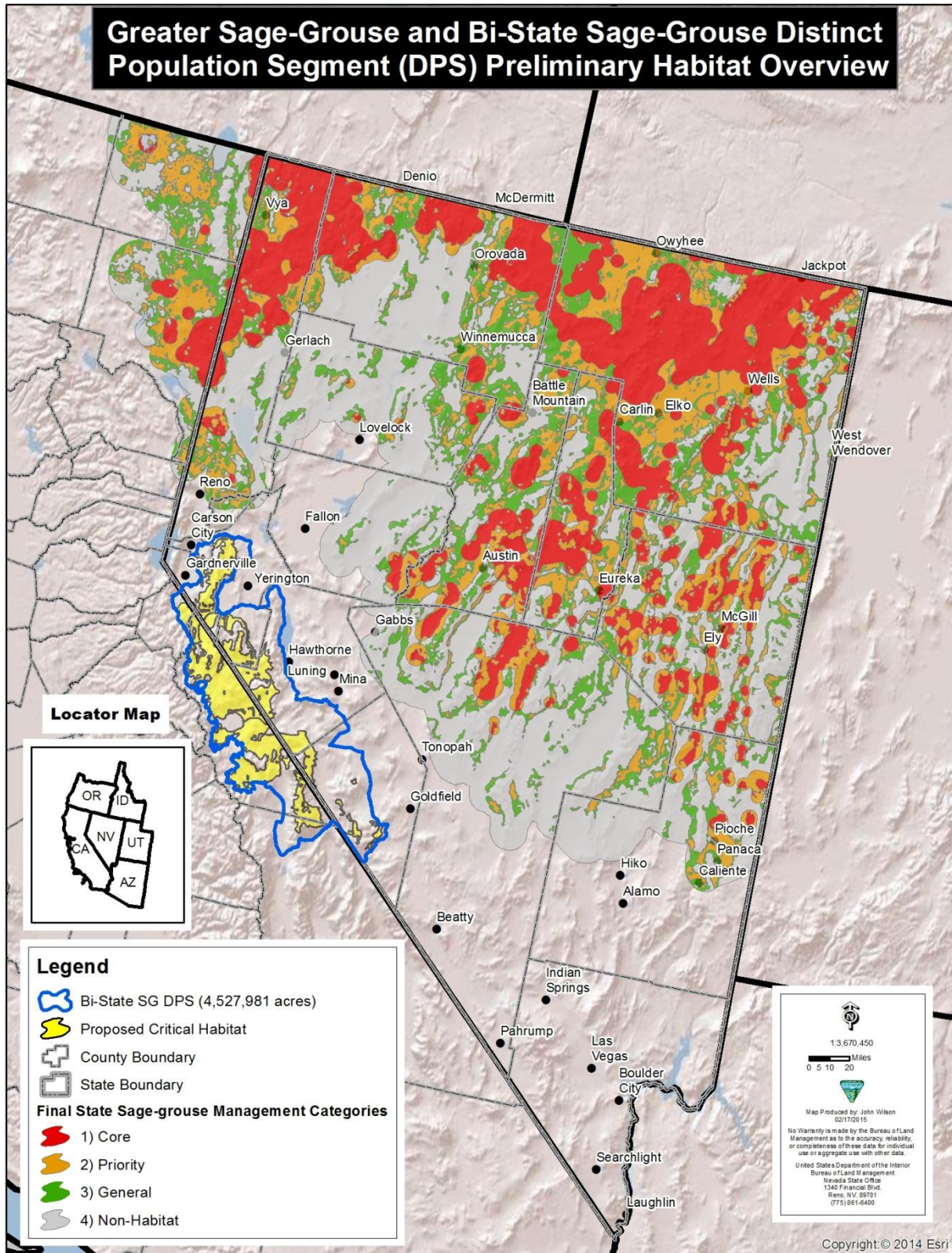
The EOC directed the Bi-State Technical Advisory Committee to prepare the Bi-State Sage-Grouse DPS Action Plan, which was completed March 2012. The first objective of the Action Plan was to document and summarize conservation actions completed since the 2004 plan. The second objective was to develop a comprehensive set of strategies, objectives, and actions to accomplish specific goals and objectives for effective long-term conservation of the Bi-State sage-grouse and their habitats. Within existing population management units, habitat was further refined by a map developed by USGS and in part was the basis for the proposed critical habitat (See Figure 1).

The BLM, NRCS, and USFS have formally committed \$32 million over the next decade to implement the action plan.

Major threats to the Bi-State population are current and future destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitats in the Bi-State area due to urbanization, infrastructure, mining, energy development, grazing, invasive and exotic species, pinyon-juniper encroachment, recreation, wildfire and the likely effects of climate change. These threats are exacerbated by the small population sizes, isolated nature, and limited availability of important seasonal habitats for many Bi-State area populations.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and draft Record of Decision for the Greater Sage-grouse Bi-state Distinct Population Segment (Bi-state sage-grouse) Forest Plan Amendment on February 6, 2015. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of amending the Carson City District and Tonopah Field Office Resource Management Plans. These are not expected to be completed until sometime in 2016.

It is the intent of the current conservation and planning efforts that the DPS will no longer be warranted for listing.



Wildland Fire and Fuels Management

- With the exception of Alaska, BLM Nevada has the largest wildfire program in the BLM
- 2014 Nevada fire season:
 - o All agencies; 459 fires (264 lightning, 195 human-caused) burned 57,962 acres
 - o BLM; 281 fires (177 lightning, 104 human-caused) burned 31,113 acres

Wildfire Program Partnerships

- Work with State/Federal Wildland Fire partners to expand programs;
- Continue to build and maintain effective relationships with interagency partners including city, county, Volunteer Fire Departments, utilities and other non-governmental agencies;
- Expand opportunities to mitigate hazardous fuel conditions treat invasive species, conduct rehabilitation on previous/current burned areas;
- Continue to build and expand partnerships to protect communities, private property and lives by improving wildfire suppression efforts;
- Annual sponsor of the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Week; Nevada Wildland Urban Interface Conference;
- Work with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service to expand the Living with Fire program;
- The BLM, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources continue to work together to counter the effects of fire, invasive species, and other ecologically disruptive changes in vegetation condition.

2014 BLM Hazardous Fuels Treatments

- Total acres treated 34,694
- 17,753 acres in non-wildland urban interface areas
- 16,941 acres in wildland urban interface areas

Pre Suppression Budget

- 2015: \$17.2 million
- 2014: \$13.9 million
- 2013: \$14.1 million

Planned 2015 BLM Suppression Resources:

- 3 Initial Attack helicopters (Elko, Ely and Las Vegas)
- 4 Single-Engine Air Tankers (SEATS);
- 2 air attack aircraft for aerial detection and fire air traffic control;
- 52 fire engines, 5 Initial Attack Dozers;
- 2 Hotshot Crews: Silver State Hot Shots (Carson City); Ruby Mountain Hot Shots (Elko);
- 1 Type 2 initial attack crew Vegas Valley Crew, staffed by Veterans stationed in Las Vegas.

Sage-grouse Habitat Protection from, and Rehabilitation after, Wildfire

The DOI and the BLM have identified Greater Sage-grouse habitat as the highest natural resource protection priority for wildfire suppression efforts. The BLM provides guidance, habitat maps, and guidelines to augment protection of Greater Sage-grouse habitats and population. Nevada has been completing the Fire and Invasive Assessment Tool (FIAT) protocol which identifies across Nevada projects and fire operations guidelines that will restore and protect sage brush communities.

Healthy Lands Initiative

The BLM's Healthy Landscapes (HL) program is a BLM funding initiative and the successor to the Secretary's Healthy Lands Initiative, launched in 2007, as a long-term, landscape scale, collaborative effort.

The HL funding initiative provides the field with opportunities to coordinate BLM funding (one-time and base) with partner funding to achieve landscape objectives across ownerships and jurisdictions at a landscape (not project) level. HL funds may be used to address current and future resource conditions as identified in large scale assessments such as the Central Basin and Range and the Mojave Basin and Range Rapid Ecoregional Assessments; to decrease habitat fragmentation; to restore or maintain habitat connectivity; to slow the rate of decline or improving resource condition; to protect high value resources from change agents such as fire; and to anticipate and address future effects of change agents.

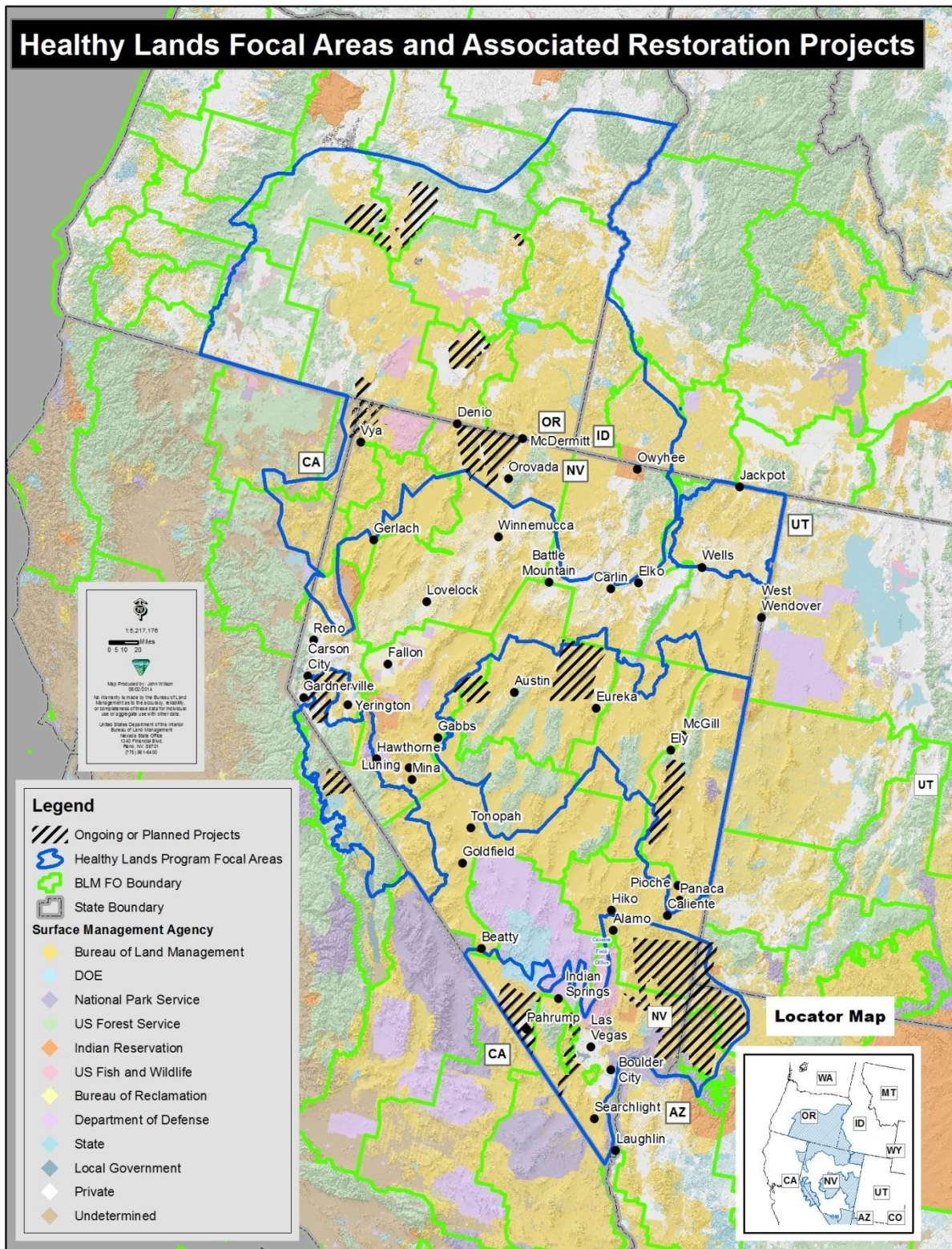
The BLM Nevada developed broad HL focal areas that will receive multi-year (FY16-20) HL program funding for integrated landscape restoration and land health partnership projects as part of Nevada's "Landscape Approach. Some Focal Areas are shared with other states. See Figure 1 for HL Focal Area locations and associated restoration projects.

The goals of the HL funding initiative are to:

1. Conserve and restore sustainable ecosystems.
 - a. Manage development in concert with natural resource objectives
 - b. Address and manage for current and future risks.

The objectives of the HL funding initiative are to:

2. Institutionalize managing resources on a landscape basis
 - a. Develop and implement integrated regional strategies.
 - b. Coordinate and conduct restoration and protection across jurisdictions through partnerships.
 - c. Address issues at appropriate scale
 - d. Coordinate across programs, disciplines, and initiatives.



National Landscape Conservation System and Areas of Special Designation

3 National Conservation Areas

- Sloan Canyon
 - o Established 2002; encompasses approximately 48,000 acres
- Red Rock Canyon
 - o Designated 1990; encompasses 195,610 acres
 - o Most visited NCA in the Bureau – more than 1.5 million visitors a year
- Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails – designated 2000
 - o Encompasses almost 1.2 million acres of public lands in northwestern Nevada

46 Wilderness Areas

- Encompass 2,081,005 acres
- Nevada Wilderness is designated by Congress and usually via County Land Bills

62 Wilderness Study areas

- Encompass 2,542,505 acres

54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- Encompass almost 1.5 million acres

Segments of three National Trails

- California National Historical Trail: 700 miles that crosses BLM in northern Nevada
- Pony Express National Historic Trail: 300 miles on BLM across central Nevada
- Old Spanish Trail: 125 miles that crosses BLM in southern Nevada

Recreation, Visitor Services and Travel Management Overview

Visitor Services

- Approximately 8 million visitors recreated on BLM Nevada lands in 2014
- Issued 389 special recreation permits including the Burning Man event and numerous high profile off-highway vehicle race events

Environmental Education, Interpretation and Partnerships

- BLM and its partners offer more than 1,900 interpretive programs each year in local schools such as the Mojave Max Program in Clark County which educates thousands of students
- Five partners work collaboratively with BLM to provide environmental education opportunities to public land visitors and students in schools/local communities
- Annual BLM contributions to partners provide operating money to fund employees
- Major partners include: Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Southern Nevada Conservancy, Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association, Nevada Outdoor School, Friends of the Black Rock, Southern Nevada Conservancy, Great Basin Institute, Friends of Black Rock and the Student Conservation Association.
- A Nevada 150th Anniversary Outreach Team was formed in 2014. BLM Nevada partnered with the Nevada 150 Commission and the Nevada Commission on Tourism. The Team developed the Nevada Adventure Book for Junior Explorers and accompanying program, plus a fun geocaching activity and the 2014 BLM Nevada planner that showcased the winners of the 2nd annual photo contest. In addition, BLM and our partners hosted very successful Artist-in-Residence programs at both Black Rock Desert NCA and Red Rock Canyon NCA.

Travel Management and Off Highway Vehicle Use

OHV use in Nevada has increased dramatically in recent years. Thousands of recreationists from throughout the western United States look to Nevada's vast open spaces for unique dispersed recreational opportunities

- Approximately 25 percent of Nevada's population are OHV users;
- Increasing numbers of California OHV users recreate in Nevada due to real or perceived restrictions in California;
- Approximately 27 million of the 48 million acres of BLM-administered public land is open to unrestricted cross-country OHV use creating the potential for significant impacts to BLM public land species, habitats, natural resources, etc.;
- BLM will address the increasing use as we update our land use plans and designate open, limited, and to a much lesser extent, closed OHV area designations;
- The BLM is currently conducting comprehensive travel management planning to include route inventories, route analysis and designation of a sustainable transportation system that includes OHV recreation;
- It has been determined via the permitting process that 85 percent of the users at Sand Mountain (Fallon) come from California. Most of these users make several multi-day trips to this site each year resulting in an economic benefit to the Fallon, Fernley and Reno/Sparks area.

Links

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